

REMARKS

A. Request for Reconsideration

Applicants have carefully considered the matters raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action but remains of the opinion that patentable subject matter is present. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's position based on the following remarks.

B. Claims Status

Claims 1-13 are pending in this Application.

Claim 1-13 have amended to delete the reference characters and place the claims into more conventional U.S. format.

C. Claim Objection

The Examiner objected to claim 1, line 12, for including a reference character which was not enclosed within parentheses. Claim 1 has been amended herein to delete the reference characters.

D. Nonstatutory Obviousness-type Double Patenting Rejection

The Examiner had put forward two nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejections as follows:

- (1) Claims 1-8 had been rejected as being unpatentable over claims 1-7 of U.S. Patent No. 6,926,446 in view of Mittendorf DE 3529359; and
- (2) Claim 9 had been rejected as being unpatentable over claims 1-7 of U.S. Patent No. 6,926,446 in view of Mittendorf DE 3529359 as applied to claim 1 and further in view of Eitner U.S. Patent No. 980,082.

A terminal disclaimer is filed herewith to obviate the double patenting rejection with respect U.S. Patent No. 6,926,446. Respectfully, the attached terminal disclaimer renders these rejections moot.

E. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claims 10-13 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated these claims would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims.

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 10-13 were allowable. Respectfully, the attached terminal disclaimer renders this objection moot.

F. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the Application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Should any fees or extensions of time be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit account #02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

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